

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,921

Examiner

DIANE D. MIZRAHI

Applicant(s)

SAUERMAN, VOLKER

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5-31-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7-11, 14-17 and 20 (renumbered 1-14).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney William Brogan on 5-31-06.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for presenting a plurality of search result records from a query comprising:

defining a shared attribute, that was not used in the query, based on values common to a plurality of search result records,

wherein defining includes:

determining a first set of defined values for a first attribute,

determining a second set of defined values for a second attribute, and

classifying the first attribute and the second attribute as a single shared attribute if the first set of defined values and the second set of defined values share a common set of defined values;

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creating a category corresponding to a value of the shared attribute,

wherein creating a category includes:

determining a first number of search result records corresponding to a first category,

determining a second number of search result records corresponding to a second category, and

combining the first category and the second category into a new category if the sum of the first number and the second number is less than a predetermined threshold;

displaying the category; and

displaying a list of the search result records associated with the displayed category.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the category further comprises:

displaying the category as a labeled tab.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the category further comprises:

displaying the category as a labeled button.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a search result record having a value of null for the identified attribute is associated with the category.

5. (Cancelled).

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6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein combining includes:

combining the first category and the second category into a new category if the sum of the first number and the second number are less than a third number of records in a third category.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for presenting a plurality of search result records from a query comprising:

means for defining a shared attribute, that was not used in the query, based on values common to a plurality of search result records,

wherein the means for defining an attribute includes:

means for determining a first set of defined values for a first attribute,

means for determining a second set of defined values for a second attribute, and

means for classifying the first attribute and the second attribute as a single shared attribute if the first set of defined values and the second set of defined values share a common set of defined values;

means for creating a category corresponding to a value of the shared attribute,

wherein the means for creating a category includes:

means for determining a first number of search result records corresponding to a first category,

means for determining a second number of search result records corresponding to a second category, and

means for combining the first category and the second category into a new category if a sum of the

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first number and the second number is less than a predetermined threshold;

means for displaying the category; and

means for displaying a list of the search result records associated with the displayed category.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for displaying the category further comprises:

means for displaying the category as a labeled tab.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for displaying the category further comprises:

means for displaying the category as a labeled button.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein a search result record having a value of null for the identified attribute is associated with the category.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[13]] 8, wherein the means for combining includes:

means for combining the first category and the second category into a new category if the sum of the first number and the second number are less than a third number of search result records in a third category.

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15. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program-product~~ readable storage medium for presenting a plurality of search result records from a query comprising code for causing a processor to perform the steps of:

defining a shared attribute, that was not used in the query, based on values common to a plurality of search result records,

wherein defining an attribute includes:

determining a first set of defined values for a first attribute,

determining a second set of defined values for a second attribute, and

classifying the first attribute and the second attribute as a single shared attribute if the first set of defined values and the second set of defined values share a common set of defined values;

creating a category corresponding to a value of the shared attribute,

wherein creating a category includes:

determining a first number of search result records corresponding to a first category,

determining a second number of search result records corresponding to a second category, and

combining the first category and the second category into a new category if the sum of the first number and the second number is less than a predetermined threshold;

displaying the category; and

displaying a list of the search result records associated with the displayed category.

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16. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ medium of claim 15, wherein displaying the category further comprises:

displaying the category as a labeled tab.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ medium of claim 15, wherein displaying the category further comprises:

displaying the category as a labeled button.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ medium of claim [[19]] 15, wherein combining includes:

combining the first category and the second category into a new category if the sum of the first number and the second number are less than a third number of records in a third category.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-17 and 20 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Other Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents

and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4156. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9001.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a cursive 'M' and 'Z', with a horizontal line underneath.

Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

May 31, 2006